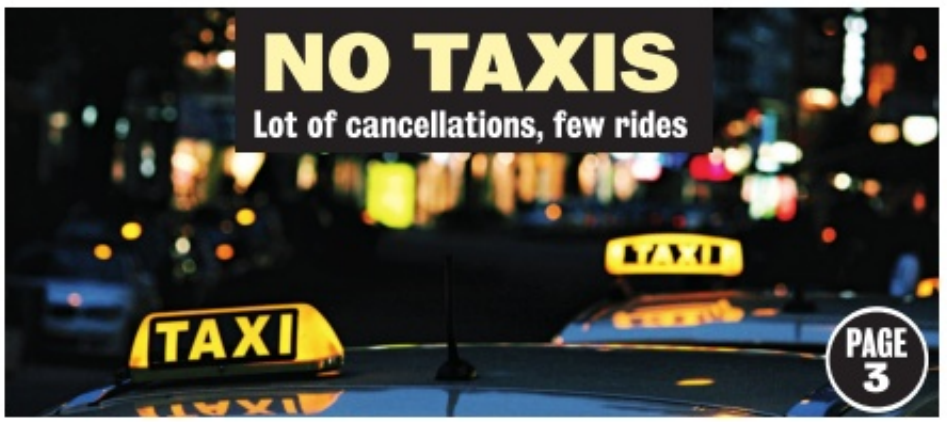
BENGALURU, MONDAY, MAY 8, 2023 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 21 | Humidity 81% Mostly cloudy Sensex 61,054 | Nifty 18,069 | Gold 60,636 | Silver 77,016 | Dollar 81.73 | Euro 91.63 | GBP 103.30



NO TAXIS

Lot of cancellations, few rides

PAGE 3

PATH PATHETIC

No tarred road in this area

PAGE 4

Vacant land belonging to HAL has turned into a dumping spot for all types of garbage. Old furniture, plastic, clothes — pretty much all waste in vicinity ends up here

AS RUBBISH PILES, THE PLOT THICKENS

Trash has caught fire multiple times too; BBMP suggests HAL fence its property

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A piece of vacant land owned by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has become an eyesore for thousands of commuters and a health hazard for people residing in the vicinity. It is not that HAL has been dumping garbage on the vacant land. It is the residents of some areas and various shop owners who dump all types of garbage on this spot.

Residents of Sanjayanagar squarely blame people and shop owners from other areas for throwing garbage on the vacant land. With all types of garbage, broken chairs, unused sofa sets, plenty of plastic, the vacant land looks like a landfill at Mandur.

"We have been suffering a lot due to the dumping of garbage here. It is difficult to cope with bad odour emanating from the heaps of garbage," said a homemaker on the condition of anonymity.

The residents said that they have been complaining to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities but that has not helped. "I have complained to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

"HAL has resources and manpower. It can fix this problem by increasing the height of the compound wall and posting two or three guards to prevent people dumping garbage on the vacant land

— Krishne Gowda, a resident

Who will clean the red carpet?

Pourakarmikas asked to get extra clean-up done within work hours to evade payment of overtime

Rachana Ramesh
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The spectacular road show is over. Flower petals were showered non-stop and saffron flags all around created quite the scene. Now comes the tough part -- the cleaning up. As the stars of road shows recede, the behind-the-scenes workers, the pourakarmikas, bear the brunt.

Mala, a pourakarmika, told Bangalore Mirror that they are being made to deal with the aftermath of the road rally without any benefit. "We do not receive any sort of assistance from the municipal body to carry on the extra work along with our routine. Forget being paid over time, we are not even provided with necessary equipment that would make our job much easier," she said.

Mala works in areas surrounding the Race Course Road and the Sankey Tank – neighbourhoods that were incorporated as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mega road show. "The situation has gotten much worse because of the rains. It is much easier to sweep when it is dry. The cleaning has caused an ache in my arms," she explained.

On Saturday, the road show began at 10 am from JP Nagar 7th phase and concluded at the Sankey Road in Malleshwaram,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Fancy furniture

Grab a chance to attend an exhibition that aims to revive and promote the forgotten art of wicker cane weaving. You can find products like rare sofa sets in teak and rosewood, coffee tables, cabinets, chairs, and more on display. The speciality lies in the quality and all the furniture come with a lifetime of guarantee on them.
Where: Antique Home Decor, No 1, Uma Shankar Avenue, opposite Carmel Teresa School, Hagadhur Road, near Forum Neighbourhood Mall, Whitefield; When: May 8 to 20

02 Best written

Here's a chance for you to watch one of the most popular plays by Girish Karnad: Rakshasa Tangadi. Through this Kannada play, explore the gem written by the legend about Indian history that narrates the battle between the Deccan Sultans and the Vijayanagara Empire, set in the year 1565.
Where: Kalagrama; When: Saturday, May 13; 7 pm

03 Action scenes

Akarsh Khurana is going to adapt and direct The Verdict by Margaret May Hobbs, presented by Akvarious Productions. The play is about a lawyer who gets a wake-up call after he comes across medical wrongdoing. The play is being produced by Saatvika Kantamneni.
Where: Ranga Shankara; When: Friday, May 19– Saturday May 20

Exam ready

Students read up before appearing for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) exam at the Army Public School on Kamaraja Road on Sunday

Stepping out in your best jeans? Be careful

City dermatologists urge citizens to be cautious about infections that can result from wearing tight jeans during summer season; recommend baggy or cotton clothes

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMirror

While many prefer to wear their jeans throughout the year, doctors say that it is better to avoid them in the summer when there is an increase in temperature.

Dr Sudheendra G Udbalker (Consultant Dermatology, Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road) told Bangalore Mirror that in summer, wearing tight jeans could lead to discomfort and fungal infections due to the heat and moisture they trap.

"Fungi thrive in warm, moist environments and can cause skin infections such as athlete's foot, jock itch, and ringworm. These infections can be prevented by wearing loose-fitting, breathable clothing made from natural fibres like cotton or linen. It's also important to change out of sweaty clothing as soon as possible, keep the skin clean and dry, and seek medical treatment if an infection develops," he said.

Remember to stay hydrated, avoid prolonged sun exposure during the hottest parts of the day, and take steps to protect your skin and overall health during summer, he advised.

Furthermore, Dr Shireen Furtado (Consultant - Medical and Cosmetic Dermatology, Aster CMI Hospital) said that summer clothing choices should be chosen carefully.

"Particularly, wearing jeans can negatively affect our skin's health. While they may be a fashion staple, they can also trap heat and sweat, leading to a buildup of bacteria and fungi and ultimately leading to skin irritation, rashes, and even infections like tinea or ringworm. It is important to note that the fabric of the jeans, as well as their fit, can also have an impact on the skin. To minimise the risk of skin irritation and other issues, I recommend that individuals choose breathable, lightweight fabrics such as cotton, linen, or rayon instead of denim," she said.

Loose-fitting clothing can also be helpful in promoting air circulation and reducing the buildup of heat and sweat. If you must wear jeans, try to limit the amount of time you spend in them and choose a lighter wash of denim to reduce heat retention. Also, make sure to keep your skin clean and dry, and avoid wearing tight-fitting undergarments, as they can exacerbate skin irritation, she explained.

Other dermatologists added that, though both men and women wear jeans, there is an occlusion of the area underneath the jeans, especially in the groin region and also in the rest of the thigh, which causes various skin conditions.

According to Dr Anagha Samarth, Consultant Dermatologist, SPARSH Hospital, these skin conditions can be quite uncomfortable and need treatment if aggravated or do not come down by physical measures. As an alternative to jeans, especially in summer due to the hot and humid climate, it is recommended to wear baggy clothes or cotton clothes. Also, it is best to avoid synthetic. "If you are wearing jeans it is better to wear something that is airy," she said.

According to experts, jeans can trap heat and sweat, leading to a buildup of bacteria and fungi in summer

Infections in summer

- Jock itch is a common fungal infection that lasts throughout the summer in a few patients. This fungal infection is usually present in the groin area and the buttock area. When there is occlusion, there is excessive sweating, and this humid environment is a growth medium for the fungus.
- Miliaria is commonly known as a heat rash or prickly rash. This skin condition is usually seen in hot and humid climates in the summer due to the blockage or inflammation of sweat ducts.
- Folliculitis is an inflammation or infection of the hair follicle. It is seen as a red rash but is more discrete. It is present around the hair follicle itself.

Dip in crime, but our prisons are houseful

Due to check-posts, arrests, rate of criminal activity has dipped say police; but new inmates crowd up jails in state

PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With elections round the corner, police have been busy setting up check posts at vantage points. One fall-out due to this seems to be that due to the high police presence, criminal activities in the state have come down. Police data states that there has been a considerable decrease in incidents like robbery, dacoity, rioting and thefts.

A senior police official said there has been an increase in patrolling day and night besides setting up check posts. There is also a presence of para military forces which is helping curb the crime rate. Another reason could be the presence of a large number of people campaigning throughout the day.

A senior police official said, "We are conducting strict inspections and detaining suspicious people so that there is no trouble for elections. Even burglars would be wary as even if they steal money or gold from homes, it would be quite difficult for them to transport them due to the check posts. So, thefts have reduced. Besides this, we have taken strict measures to prevent rowdy activities. So far, more than 575 rowdies have been deported out of the state. Rowdy sheeters who threatened law and order have been arrested and sent to jails across the state. Thousands of rowdies have been summoned and have taken an undertaking from them that they won't disturb peace. So, the rowdy activities have reduced as well."

The official said large gatherings assembling near bars and other places are dispersed off sooner so there are fewer conflicts or clashes.

Overcrowding in prisons

On the other hand, the number of inmates in jails has increased significantly, leading to overcrowding and posing a challenge for prison authorities. According to the Department of Prisons, the state's prisons are currently at an average of 108 per cent full, with 1,244 overcrowded jails. A senior police official said, "The respective Deputy Commissioners have also been using their magisterial powers to imprison rowdies, leading to a large number of people being sent to jails. As a result, the barracks are full, and the accused are now pushed to jails. On the other hand, the authorities are scrambling to arrange food and accommodation for the new inmates, along with the undertrials and convicts."

> **"Authorities are scrambling to arrange food and accommodation for the new inmates, along with the undertrials and convicts**

The maintenance of the prisons has also become a challenge for the staff due to the increased number of inmates. With fewer staffers as compared to the number of prisoners, the government has allotted 4,154 posts to the 51 jails, but only 3,094 posts have been filled, leaving 1,060 posts vacant.

Staff is struggling to keep tabs on the movement of large numbers of prisoners. For example, the Humnabad taluk jail in Bidar is the first in the state with the maximum number of prisoners (233 per cent) detained beyond the capacity limit. The Ramanagar, Kolar, Koppal, and Gadag district jails follow in that order, with 187 per cent, 168 per cent, 167 per cent, and 157 per cent of their capacity occupied.

A police official added, "The situation is alarming, and the state authorities need to take immediate steps to address the overcrowding in jails. The prison authorities are doing their best to control the situation."

No cabs going this way?

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengalureans have complained that it is getting difficult to get cab services for the past few months. Passengers hailing cabs from ride-hailing platforms complain of cancellations or failure to get cabs on time.

For the past few months, users are seeing lower ride confirmations, more cancellations and penalties for cancellations. "There is a definitive shortage in services. Cab drivers are constantly declining rides off late. As soon as you inform the driver that it's within 4-5 km, they cancel the ride.

This happened to me for a few months. Now, I have started using my private vehicle to commute. Sometimes, I rely on Namma Yatri that are offering rides at cheaper rates," said Vishnu, a resident of Bellandur.

Commuters say that this may be due to more offices getting back to work at the office. "Demand has increased with offices asking for at least three-five office days per week," he added.

Another resident of OMBR Layout said that they could not get a single cab to commute from MG Road to Banaswadi recently and ended up taking an auto.

Another resident of Koramangala Sunil Achar noted that he has been struggling to get cabs for the past two months. "After many trials and switching between different apps, I get rides. Even if there are cabs near the vicinity, they refuse to accept rides. Mostly, I face the issue especially around 3 pm," he added.

Pradeep, a resident of Malleswaram, said that it is passengers who face the brunt of riders cancelling."When drivers cancel, a penalty is imposed on passengers," he said.

The forgotten roads of Panchamukhi Layout

Residents say authorities failed to restore roads dug up for laying pipes

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Panchamukhi Layout in Kithaganur Panchayat, under the Mahadevapura Assembly constituency, have been facing numerous problems due to poor road infrastructure.

The residents have complained that the crossroads and the road connecting the layout to the main road have been in a terrible state for years. However, neither the elected representatives nor the Panchayat Development Officer have bothered to asphalt these roads.

Chaitanya S, a resident of 1st Cross of Panchamukhi Layout, said, "I have been residing here for more than six years. There is no improvement in the condition of many crossroads in this layout. Whenever it rains, the road becomes slushy, and we have to be cautious while walking on the road."

The residents have complained that the authorities have failed to restore the roads that were dug up for laying water pipes or for other purposes. "The crossroad was dug up three months ago, but it is yet to be restored. The residents are finding it difficult to walk on the slushy road due to the recent rains. I want the authorities to asphalt the road as soon as possible for the benefit of residents," added Chaitanya.

Aruna, another resident, expressed a similar opinion and said that most of the crossroads were in terrible condition. "We have complained to the authorities concerned about the bad condition of the roads, but in vain. We need them to restore these roads. It has become difficult for the residents to use stretches that are in such a terrible condition," said Aruna.

Crossroads like this one are yet to be asphalted in the layout located in Kithiganur Panchayat; Residents complain that whenever it rains, the road becomes slushy and they find it hard to walk in the area

Meanwhile, Ramesh Babu Reddy, the corporator of ward number 3 of Kithaganur Village Panchayat, said that the panchayat does not have sufficient funds to take up development works. "The panchayat did not receive funds from the state government except for Rs 42 lakh grants under the 15th Finance Commission. I approached the MLA seeking funds for the developmental works, but nothing happened," he said.

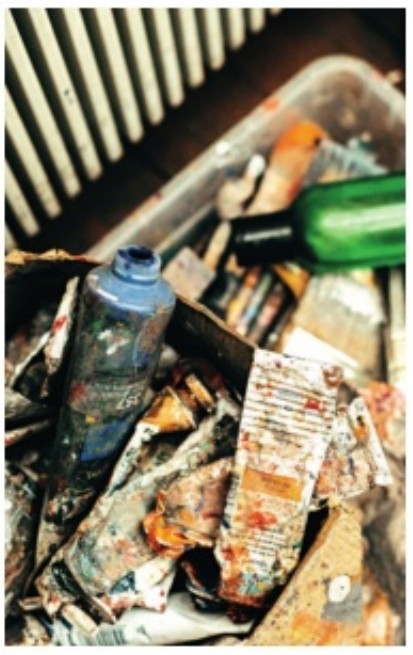
According to Reddy, the panchayat needs Rs 8 lakh per month to pay salaries to the employees, and it owes Rs 16 lakh to the Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM). "The state government has to release funds for the panchayat to take up development works. I took the initiative to have a drain facility at ward number 3 that was neglected for more than 30 years," he said.

> **"We have complained to the authorities about the bad condition of the roads, but in vain. We need them to restore these roads** – Aruna, resident

KV Nagaraj, the vice president of Kithaganur Panchayat, said that the Panchayat has a lot of private and unauthorised layouts, and they have been trying to take up development works in a phased manner. "I agree that there is a lot to be done, but we are trying to fix all these problems," Nagaraj said.

When contacted, Kithaganur Panchayat Development Officer Nataraj said that he had been busy with state assembly election work. "I will definitely look into the matter after the elections," the PDO said.

Lakshmi Ramesh, the president of Kithaganur Village Panchayat, said that the panchayat had taken up developmental work. She added that the Panchayat will take measures to asphalt the roads at Panchamukhi Layout.



Litterbugs of the world gather...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the BBMP but nothing has been done. Accumulated garbage may become a health hazard for us. I request the HAL as well as the BBMP to fix this problem on a permanent basis," said Muniraju S, a resident. The residents said there are occasions where garbage was set afire on the vacant land. "The HAL has resources and manpower. It can fix this problem by increasing the height of the compound wall and posting two or three guards to prevent people dumping garbage on the vacant land," said Krishne Gowda, a resident.

Meanwhile, HAL Estates Officer said that HAL is not using the vacant land to dump garbage. "It is the residents of the locality who are dumping garbage. We have cleared garbage from the vacant land on many occasions. We have also pressed fire tenders into service to douse the fire of the garbage on the vacant land," the officer said.

He said the HAL took measures to increase the height of the compound wall. "Despite all these measures, people continue dumping garbage on the vacant land," he said.

When contacted, BBMP Solid Waste Management assistant executive engineer Mamatha A said that she has been sending auto tippers to collect garbage from door to door on a regular basis. "Some residents who could not hand over garbage to the auto tipper due to the reasons best known to them are dumping garbage on the vacant land," said the assistant executive engineer.

She also was of the opinion that HAL can fence the vacant land to prevent people from throwing garbage. "HAL can afford to post a few guards to prevent misuse of the vacant land by the residents," she said.

She assured BM that garbage would be removed from the vacant land. "I am aware that it will be tough for the people residing in the vicinity to cope with bad odour emanating from accumulated garbage. The BMBP Marshals have also created awareness among the residents on the importance of handing garbage to the garbage auto tipper. They have penalised a few residents for dumping garbage on the vacant land," she said.

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Water worries

Judicial Layout

Stormwater work in the Judicial Layout area is incomplete, causing water to enter houses. This needs to be looked at.

What a waste

Kasavanahalli

In Kasavanahalli, near Amrita Engineering College, waste is scattered everywhere and burned every two days at night due to lack of proper waste collection.

Debris accumulation

HSR Layout

The mound of debris at 21st Cross, 7th Sector, HSR Layout is growing uncontrollably every day.

Admissions under RTE fizzling out

Number of applications received under Right to Education sees reduction; parents blame lack of publicity

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

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As the next academic year is set to start in a month, the applications for admission under Right to Education (RTE) have reduced by half, with only 10,000 applications being filed so far.

Parents blamed the lack of publicity for RTE and reorganisation of BBMP wards as the reason for the poor patronage for RTE applications.

Meghna, a parent from Manjunath Nagar said, "As we wanted to admit our daughter for the first standard in June, we had shifted to Girinagar ward. However, to our surprise, we were told that there were no seats available at Girinagar. If we had known this earlier, we could have shifted to a different ward."

Admitting the poor response, R Vishal, Commissioner for School Education said, "It is true that we have received fewer than expected applications for RTE this year. We will discuss whether to extend the RTE applications further."

BBMP had earlier proposed to increase the number of wards from 198 to 243. As a result, the revenue jurisdiction has increased and the education department allotted the RTE seats based on the increased wards. A parent said that this year the education department failed to publicise the RTE dates like previous years.

"There has been a lot of confusion

So far, only 10,000 applications have been filled under RTE

and many had no clue as to which ward they represent as per the 243-ward model," said an official.

Prior to ward reorganisation, there were provisions for RTE seats in private schools only in two wards: Ganesh Mandir and Girinagar. As these two wards had the provision for RTE admission for private schools, many parents wishing RTE seats for their children were relocating to these two wards. However, the reorganisation of wards has confused the parents.

An official said that many years ago, more than one lakh applications were filed under RTE. However, the government revised the guidelines stating that the parents could apply only for the government school in the respective jurisdiction and RTE admissions in private schools will be allowed only if there are no government schools in the vicinity. As a result, the RTE applications dropped drastically.

Entrepreneurship development

The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) is conducting a School Teachers' Development Programme in Entrepreneurship Mentoring.

According to CBSE officials, the objective of the programme is to equip the school teachers and school representatives with the requisite knowledge and skills of entrepreneurship that will help the teachers to create a supportive environment that encourages students to take calculated risks, solve problems innovatively, learn from failure, and persist in their pursuits

A senior official said, "The teachers were equipped with the required expertise and knowledge to instil an entrepreneurial mindset and tenacity in their students and guide them to identify and seize opportunities."

Invasion of reserve: Still a priority?

Activists and locals raise concern over illegal activities being taken up inside Kali Tiger Reserve

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has recently written to the Chief Wildlife Warden of Karnataka Forest Department, appealing to him to take action against officials of the Kali Tiger Project and the NTCA southern zone for violating the Forest Conservation Act by allowing illegal construction activities in the tiger reserve.

The authority, in the letter, has made a serious request to take action against officials responsible for the canopy walk bridge tourism project in Dandeli Wildlife Reserve. The letter has also sought a high level probe about CSR funds and tiger foundation funds for construction of an orchidarium in the core zone of Kali Tiger Reserve.

This is after NTCA received multiple complaints by wildlife activists about illegal construction and infrastructure development in the core areas of Kali Tiger Reserve.

On multiple occasions in the past, the activists have alleged that various illegal construction activities have been taken up inside the reserve area without due approval. Orchidarium, jungle safaris, and canopy walks were some of the illegal activities highlighted.

Locals say that the department has been promoting jungle safaris in Castlerock of Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary, adjoining the Kali Tiger Project area. This area is administered by the Kali Tiger Project area officials.

"As per the ecotourism chapter of the Tiger Conservatory Plan of the Kali Tiger Project area, various activities are proposed at Kulgi, Anshi, and Castlerock Nature Camps. Under

Construction of an orchidarium is one of the illegal activities highlighted inside the Kali Tiger Reserve

BangaloreMirror
Relook at what's going on at tiger reserve

BM's report on Mar 25, 2023 about NTCA seeking details on construction

Castlerock Range, there is no mention of jungle safari but only trekking and bird watching. Despite this, jungle safaris are being carried out, which is against Project Tiger's 2012 guidelines, which clearly state tourism shall be taken up on designated routes only. The same has been reiterated by the NTCA recently as well," said a local.

> "Now, as a result, the Castlerock area is witnessing too much tourism preessure because of jungle safaris and canopy walk, both of which are illegal" –a local

Interestingly, NTCA had written to the Karnataka Forest Department a couple of months ago, asking for a factual report on the issue. However, sources from NTCA say the Karnataka Forest Department has yet to furnish this report to the authorities.

Locals fighting against these structures say the Castlerock region is under a lot of tourism pressure owing to the alleged illegal structures.

"Although several allegations were made that the Canopy Walk project is not an isolated activity and for sure will increase tourism pressure in the Castlerock region, both the State Forest Department and NTCA failed to act on time. Now, as a result, the Castlerock area is witnessing too much tourism pressure because of jungle safaris and canopy walks, both of which are illegal," another local informed.

Many added that it becomes very important to probe how these structures were allowed when tourism policy and guidelines issued by the Tourism Department itself prohibit new tourism infrastructure in protected areas.

Man, daughter in car chased by 'drunk' gang

Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Yet another case of road intimidation and harassment has been reported in the city. A man named Akhil Sabu took to social media to narrate the horrifying incident as he was driving from Sarjapur towards Kodathi with his daughter.

"I was coming from Sarjapur towards Kodathi after dropping my wife and mother at Ravi Digital Cinema, Sarjapur. I was with my two-year-old daughter in our car, and enroute to my home, three persons in a red car started abusing me," he wrote. Furthermore, he claimed that without any provocation, the

> The man was travelling from Sarjapur towards Kodathi

men started following him. "There were three persons in the car, they were drunk: two in the front and one man with a beer bottle in the back," he said. They chased him for a few kilometres and were driving so recklessly that they were about to hit his car when he stopped his vehicle to avoid a collision, he added. "They stopped their car in front. The driver opened the door and walked towards me, abusing me and threatening me with some kind of weapon in his hand. I had no other option but to take my vehicle forward, accelerating fast to avoid conflict as my daughter was inside the car," he explained. The accused then hit the window of the car using his hand, but he was not able to break the glass. "If the glass had shattered, we both might have gotten injured. He followed me again, but I managed to get away."

One candidate's 'marvelous' vision

Residents pay Rs 65 lakh yearly for haphazard parking; one man wants to fix that

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

It is routine for political parties to release exclusive manifestos for the overall development of Bengaluru. The BJP announced its plan to release a constituency-wise manifesto during the state assembly elections in 2018. Now, the Congress candidate from Malleswaram has released a manifesto exclusively for the overall development of the Malleswaram constituency.

"My vision is 'marvelous Malleswaram'. The manifesto was prepared after conducting a survey of different localities in Malleswaram for five months. Our party activists had interacted with the residents, including senior citizens. We have included all the demands and needs of the residents. Our party has advised its candidates to prepare their own manifesto for their respective constituencies," said Congress candidate Anoop Iyengar.

The manifesto states that the people of Malleswaram end up paying Rs 65 lakh in penalties every year for parking vehicles haphazardly, and only 20 per cent of the multilevel parkings are occupied due to bad or unsuitable locations.

"If elected, I want to construct a multi-level car parking facility. The state government or the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) can acquire private land for the construction of multi-level car parking facilities at different locations in Malleswaram to avoid traffic congestion caused by the parking of vehicles on the road," he said.

Congress candidate from Malleswaram Anoop Iyengar releasing the 'Marvelous Malleswaram' manifesto

POLL VAULT

The manifesto assures high-frequency transport connectivity for commercial locations, including the last mile, using feeder buses, electric vehicles, and other means. The manifesto recommends smart road technology for a set of strategically chosen roads. The devices include speed sensors, acoustic sensors, IP CCTV cameras, smart traffic lights, condition/weather monitoring systems, digital signage, geo-fencing, and tagging.

He said that only one per cent of the temples have been renovated in the last five years. "I want to take over the restoration of religious institutions, markets, and flea markets. The fragrance of the Sampige tree from the original Malleswaram is something that needs to be brought back to reality. My priority is to improve the greenery across the constituency. All of us are aware that Margosa Road is named as such because of Margosa trees, and Sampige Road is named as such because of the road's Sampige trees," he said.

He said that he wants to plant high oxygen-producing saplings like peace lily, snake, and spider saplings to have a better-breathable Malleswaram. "Afforestation will be a constant activity in Malleswaram," he said.

To ensure healthcare for needy people, the manifesto recommends 24x7 trauma and emergency care, fast and free response ambulance vehicles, 20-25 bed dialysis centres for the benefit of economically weaker sections, and CT scans and MRI scans at subsidised rates.

He has promised pet-friendly parks and clinics in 12 months if he is elected.

"Although the residents of Malleswaram like to take their four-legged friends along with them for their regular walks, it is not easy to go into a common park that other people also use for walking. Therefore, plans have been drawn to create specific pet-friendly parks," he said.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Translation woes

Translators have been giving the public and netas a tough time. With elections round the corner, national leaders are busy addressing rallies in the state. As these national netas are fluent in Hindi, they require assistance for translating their speeches to Kannada. Many times, these translators are putting the netas in a tight spot for the wrong translation. Sometime back, there were videos doing rounds on social media showing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi having a tough time with the translator. More recently, it looked like Prime Minister Narendra Modi too was annoyed with his translator. During his blitzkrieg tour, Modi stopped briefly as he sensed that the translator was going out of the line. Finally, the PM summoned the translator and gave tips to the latter on good translation practices.

Spilling the beans

Former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar has finally revealed the reason why his wife's photos were being used for publicity during the previous Lok Sabha elections while his own name was missing. Shettar, who recently left the saffron party to join Congress, explained that he wanted to support the BJP candidate Prahlad Joshi, but as the Speaker of the House at the time, he couldn't openly endorse him. So, his wife stepped in and campaigned for Joshi on his behalf. It was a fascinating role reversal, with the wife taking the lead in the campaign instead of the husband.

CM reprimands MP

Usually, we expect camaraderie among leaders of the same party, but in a rare occurrence, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai was seen reprimanding his party MP Pratap Simha. While addressing a rally in Mysuru recently, the CM asked Simha to remain seated in one place. "Simha, learn to sit in one place for a few minutes, as I need to wrap up my speech and exit soon," he said.

-Sridhar Vivan

Tackling apathy at the root in Kanakapura

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A voter awareness drive has been launched by a group of residents in the Sobha Forest View apartment complex in Kanakapura, in the Yeshwanthpur constituency of South Bangalore. The group, which includes first-time voters, went door-to-door to educate residents on the importance of voting and the various ways to cast their ballots.

The apartment has over 898 apartments with 3,500 residents. Kiran Kumar, President of the Sobha Forest View Apartment Owners Association, said, "We addressed concerns raised by some residents about not receiving their voter IDs, which can sometimes discourage people from voting. We told them that if the voter ID doesn't come, they can use the electoral ID search to find their polling booth and constituency details and then go ahead and vote. Even though the Election Commission had allowed senior citizens above 80 years of age to cast their vote from their homes, many in the apartment still did not vote. Over six senior citizens reached out to us during the awareness drive stating that they needed transportation to reach the polling booth on the day of voting. We will speak to the respective polling booth officers and provide them with necessary arrangements."

File photo of people standing in a line during the Gram Panchayat elections

Last month, the members of the association also involved themselves in creating a voter ID registration drive. "Many did not have the voter ID and did not know how to register. We initiated a drive in the apartment itself where people gave their information or documents to enroll them. This helped us in getting a high number of voter registrations. Voting is very important for the democracy of the country, and hence we are putting in all effort to get a higher turnout this year in the state," added Kiran.

VK Srivatsa, a resident of Kanakapura Road, said, "It is impressive to note that at least 1,000 new voters were added in the last 45 days due to volunteer support provided by the group of residents from Sobha Forest View apartment. They have gone beyond the call of duty by assisting with online voter registration, following up with BBMP officers for approval, and even following up until the residents obtained their voter IDs. This is a wonderful example of how to get voters on board, and it is time to replicate this initiative."

One of the residents, who is a first-time voter, said they were thrilled to exercise their right to vote for the first time, and the voter awareness drive conducted by apartment residents played a crucial role in helping them understand the voting process. "It was heartening to see the community come together and encourage each other to participate in the democratic process," they added.

A similar drive was even carried out at the Sobha Hillview and Sobha Suncrest apartments, where students were involved in identifying resident voters, preparing voter slips, and distributing them door-to-door. The initiative helped students understand the importance of the election process and promoted voter awareness among them from a young age.

... And it is curtains on high-voltage campaigning

Voters reel under the blinding blitzkrieg that election campaigns have been this time; parties have just today to get their point across

The high voltage campaign for the May 10 Assembly elections in Karnataka will come to an end on Monday as all three major political parties in the state -- BJP, Congress and JD(S) -- are busy making their last pitch to woo the voters.

The top guns of all the major political parties were on a campaign blitz across the state in the past few days, even as the ruling BJP has been striving to break the 38-year-old pattern of alternating governments and retain its southern citadel.

The Congress on its part is working hard to wrest power from the BJP to give itself much-needed elbow room and momentum to position itself as the main opposition player in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The JD(S) led by former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda was seen Aputting all its might into campaigning, wanting to emerge as "king" and not "kingmaker", hoping to get the required numbers to form a government on its own.

POLL VAULT

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi rides a scooter with a food delivery executive, in Bengaluru on Sunday; Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the second day of his roadshow in the city

"Government with full majority" seemed to be the favourite slogan of the leaders of all the political parties during the campaigning for the elections to the 224-member Assembly, as they stressed on getting a clear mandate to form a strong and stable government in the state.

While BJP's campaign largely centralised with the focus being on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the 'double-engine' government, national issues and programmes or achievements of the union government coupled with a few from the state, the Congress's by and large focused on local issues and was also run by its local leaders initially. However, its central leaders like AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra joined in subsequently.

JD(S) too ran a highly localised campaign, anchored solely by its leader H D Kumaraswamy, with party patriarch Deve Gowda too joining in, despite advanced age and related ailments.

> **"Though 89-yr-old Gowda initially stayed away from campaigning due to age-related ailments, he has been travelling and campaigning for JD(S) candidates in the past couple of weeks**

Modi's campaign juggernaut in the past one week since April 29 moved steadily ahead with as many as 18 mega public meetings and six road shows so far. The PM canvassed votes for BJP candidates across the state with the poll slogan 'Ee Baariya Nirdhara, Bahumatada BJP Sarkara' (This Time's Decision: Majority BJP Government).

Ahead of the March 29 announcement of polls, Modi had visited the state seven times since January, to unveil several government schemes and projects, and addressed numerous meetings of beneficiaries of the government's various schemes.

According to BJP leaders, Modi's campaigning across the state has boosted the party's morale and confidence among the electorate, which they hope will convert into votes and help the party script history in the polls. Union Home Minister Amit Shah too has extensively travelled the state, campaigning and strategising for the polls. A number of BJP leaders including party national president J P Nadda, Chief Ministers of BJP ruled states like Uttar Pradesh's Yogi Adiyanath, Assam's Himanta Biswa Sarma, Madya Pradesh's Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Goa's Pramod Sawant as well as Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, S Jaishankar, Smriti Irani, Nitin Gadkari, among others too have travelled to various parts of the state for campaigning. **PTI**

Rallying around

Even though it was drizzling since morning, Sunday turned out to be one of the busiest political days in the city. Many politicians were busy making trips to Bengaluru for last-minute campaigns. While PM Modi had his second leg of the road show, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was also campaigning in the city. Interestingly, Rahul decided to hop on to a delivery executive's scooter to reach his hotel and rode pillion for around two kilometres. Meanwhile PM Modi concluded a mega road show in the city, waving at the crowd lining up both sides of the route on the road.

The PM started his road show from the Kempegowda statue at New Thippasandra and ended at Trinity junction. Later addressing a rally, Modi said, "I had planned a bigger road show. However, I was told that the NEET was being held on Sunday. So, I said when our exams are on May 10, we could cut short the rally to help the NEET students."

Disruption in bus service

The KSRTC and BMTC have stated that due to assembly elections, they have deployed a substantial number of buses for the poll duty. Hence, there is likely to be disruption in bus services of inter city and intra city on May 9 and 10. Many of the passengers are already facing the heat of poor bus service as many buses have been hired by politicians for campaigning.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

spanning over 18 assembly constituencies. On Sunday, the show covered Bengaluru Central, involving 10 assembly constituencies.

Nirmala M, President of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Pourakarmikara Sangha, said that the authorities make sure to get the cleaning completed within the shift hours by overworking the workers, in order to evade paying them over time. "Even when a certain MLA or any other elected representative is visiting a locality, they (municipal body) ask us to work more hours to get the area clean with the promise that we will be compensated for the extra work with a leave on another day.

However, they never come through with their promises nor are we paid overtime," she said. "Regardless of what party, when those in the position of power visit the city for such public shows, vast amounts of garbage gets accumulated. It's not an easy task to clean the mess up. It is back breaking," she explained.

"A few pavements around Trinity Circle were ridden with empty plastic bottles. When a party is mobilising such a crowd, it is their responsibility to provide necessities such as drinking water but they must also make sure that litter accumulated from it must be disposed of in the right manner," said Faraz, a resident who caught a glimpse of the rally near Trinity Circle.

'Pay ASHAs for election duty'

The All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC) has raised the concern of the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) not being given an allowance during election duty. The union submitted a memorandum to the election commission officer and approached the district commissioners to provide them with allowance on the day of duty.

According to Hanumesh G, District Secretary, AIUTUC, "ASHA workers have been involved in election work without receiving any remuneration, unlike earlier elections where they were given allowances. The Election Commission has not granted any allowance this time, and the workers are being asked to work without pay."

Concerned by this situation, the members of AIUTUC approached the Chief Electoral Officer, Manoj Kumar Meena.

"The Chief Electoral officer was positive and said that they would be given an allowance. However, we haven't received any order in this regard," said Hanumesh.

During the previous election duties, the ASHA workers were given Rs 700 allowance per day.

Some of the district commissioners had denied pay to ASHA workers citing lack of funds, he claimed. **BMB**

 # PIA plane in Indian airspace
A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane flew in Indian airspace for almost ten minutes after it failed to land at the Lahore Airport owing to heavy rain

Search operations continue to hunt down terrorists in Rajouri

#Rajouri (J & K)
A massive search operation which began on Friday to hunt down terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri continued on Sunday.

"Search operation to track down terrorists underway in the Kandi area of Rajouri," officials said. More details are awaited.

A total of five soldiers lost their lives in the anti-terror operation in the Kandi area of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri on May 5. The five soldiers were killed during the anti-terror 'Operation Trinetra' of the Indian Army with Jammu and Kashmir Police and the CRPF. On Saturday, one terrorist was neutralised and one was injured in a fresh exchange of fire in Kandi, Rajouri district. **– ANI**

Manipur violence: SC to hear pleas today

Pleas include challenge to HC order on Scheduled Tribe status to Meitei community, PIL for SIT probe

#New Delhi
The Supreme Court will on Monday hear a batch of pleas on the Manipur situation including one by a ruling BJP MLA challenging the high court order on the issue of Scheduled Tribe status to the Meitei community and a PIL by a tribal outfit for an SIT probe into the violence that rocked the northeastern state last week.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narashima and JB Pardiwala is scheduled to hear the matter.

The clashes between Meiteis and tribals started in Churachandpur district last Wednesday. The tribals are opposing reservation to the Meiteis following the March 27 Manipur High Court order that asked the state government to send a recommendation to the Centre within four weeks on the demand for ST status by the Meitei community.

Dinganglung Gangmei, BJP MLA and chairman of the Hills Area Committee (HAC) of the Manipur Legislative Assembly, in his appeal contended that the "proceedings before the High Court were vitiated on account of not making the HAC a party" and the HC order created tension and led to violence between the two communities. "Even if directions were to be given they could not have been given without notice to the HAC and hearing the HAC," said the MLA who challenged various orders, including contempt notices, by the high court related to the issue. He said that the HC order led to tension between both communities and violent clashes erupted across the state. "As a result of it so far 19 tribal people have been killed, various places in the states are blocked, the internet is completely shut and more people are at risk of losing their lives," the appeal said.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal valley. Tribals -- Nagas and Kukis -- constitute another 40 per cent of the population and live mostly in the hill districts.

The PIL filed by an NGO 'Manipur Tribal Forum', through advocate Satya Mitra, said it has moved the top court under Article 32 of the Constitution on account of the extreme situation arising out of the attacks on the tribal community in Manipur by a "dominant group". It alleged that "these attacks have the full support of the party in power ... which supports the dominant group" and sought directions to the Centre and Manipur to evacuate Manipuri tribals who have fled their villages. **– PTI**

People of violence-hit areas of Manipur at a relief camp set up by the Assam Government, in Cachar district of Assam on Sunday

Wrestlers' protest: Panel gives deadline for WFI chief arrest

#New Delhi
The 31-member committee that is advising the protesting wrestlers on Sunday said if WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh is not arrested by May 21, it will take a "significant decision", even as Vinesh Phogat insisted that their protest has not been hijacked by farmers.

Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) spokesperson Rakesh Tikait, Khap Maham 24 chief Mehar Singh and Sankyut Kisna Morcha's (non-political) Baldev Singh Sirsa joined the wrestlers on the dais and addressed the media.

"Many leaders from Khap panchayat and SKM attended the meeting today. We decided that members from every khap will come to the protest site every day. They will stay here during the day and return by the evening," Tikait said before a huge gathering.

"The wrestlers' committee will take care of the protest and we will support the wrestlers from outside. We have scheduled a meeting for May 21. If the government does not offer a resolution, we will devise our next strategy," he added.

"If any emergency arises, if the wrestlers face any problem, the entire nation stands behind them." There has been a heavy deployment of Rapid Action Force (RAF) at the protest site with many khap leaders and farmers joining the aggrieved wrestlers.

The turbaned farmers, clad in dhoti-kurtas, and numbering in hundreds were seen at the protest site on Sunday as a 'Mahapanchayat' discussed the next move on behalf of the wrestlers. The scenes were similar to the farmers' protest that continued for 13 months until the government repealed the law. **– PTI**

Wrestlers Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat during their protest at Jantar Manta

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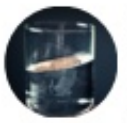
I Harishitha Basave Gowda W/O, Harsha M R/o #383, 2nd Cross VHBC Sachidananda Nagar, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore- 98 have changed my name to Nandita B Gowda, vide affidavit dated 05/12/22 before Notary SR Thulasikrishna, Bengaluru.

I Patel Tejas S/O, Kanubhai Bholabhai Patel R/o G015, sumukha Opal Apartment,15th Main,17th C Cross Road, jp Nagar 5 Phase,bangalore 560078, karnataka have changed my name to Patel Tejas Kanubhai for all purposes

I Bhupesh Kumar Jain N S/O, Narpat Raj Jain R/o No 39/1 A3 3rd Floor, 3rd Main Road Between 4th And 5th Cross Chamrajpet Bengaluru have changed my name to Bhupesh Kumar Jain for all purposes.

I Bhavanilal S/O, Sukhlal R/o #201/a 4th Cross,17th Main,laggere have changed my name to Bhavanilal S for all purposes.

HEALTH TIP: Whether you go outside for some exercise or to read a book in the sun, you should take at least 30 minutes a day to get some vitamin D



Your body goes quite a few hours without hydration as you sleep; drinking a full glass of water in the morning can aid digestion

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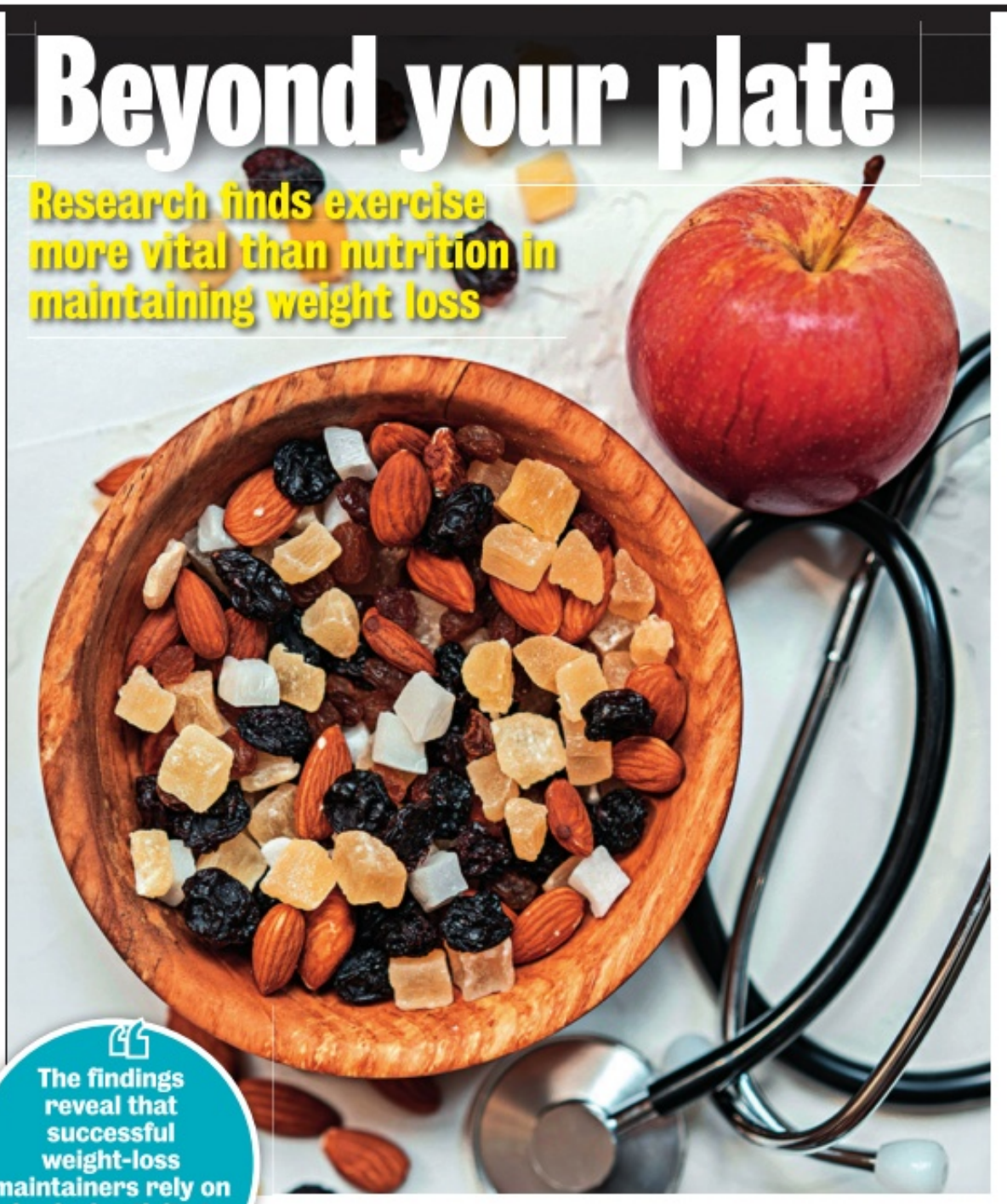
Beyond your plate

Research finds exercise more vital than nutrition in maintaining weight loss



Based on a recent study from the University of Colorado Anschutz Health and Wellness Centre (AHWC) at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, physical activity helps maintain significant weight loss more successfully than a diet.

The study was chosen as the Editor's Choice article in the March issue of Obesity.

"This study addresses the difficult question of why so many people struggle to maintain their weight loss over time." "By providing evidence that a group of successful weight-loss maintainers engages in high levels of physical activity to prevent weight regain - rather than chronically restricting their energy intake," said Danielle Ostendorf, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow at the CU Anschutz Health and Wellness Centre.

The findings reveal that successful weight-loss maintainers rely on physical activity to remain in energy balance (rather than chronic restriction of dietary intake) to avoid weight regain. In the study, successful weight-loss maintainers are individuals who maintain a reduced body weight of about 13 kg or more for over a year.

"Our findings suggest that this group of successful weight-loss maintainers are consuming a similar number of calories per day as individuals with overweight and obesity but appear to avoid weight regain by compensating for this with high levels of physical activity," said Victoria A Catenacci, MD, a weight management physician and researcher at CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

The study looked at successful weight-loss maintainers compared to two other groups: controls with average body weight (Body Mass Index (BMI) similar to the current BMI of the weight-loss maintainers); and controls with overweight/obesity (whose current BMI was similar to the pre-weight-loss BMI of the maintainers). The weight-loss maintainers had a body weight of around 68 kg, similar to the normal weight controls, while the controls with overweight and obesity had a body weight of about 96 kg.

This study is one of the few to measure total daily energy expenditure in weight-reduced individuals using the gold standard doubly labelled water method. This method allows researchers to precisely determine an individual's energy expenditure by collecting urine samples over one to two weeks after people are given a dose of doubly labelled water. Doubly labelled water is water in which both the hydrogen and the oxygen atoms have been replaced (ie labelled) with an uncommon isotope of these elements for tracing purposes.

> **The findings reveal that successful weight-loss maintainers rely on physical activity to remain in energy balance**

The measure of total daily energy expenditure from doubly labelled water also provides an estimate of energy intake when people are weight stable, as they were in this study. Prior studies used questionnaires or diet diaries to measure energy intake, which has significant limitations.

The researchers also measured each individual's resting metabolic rate in order to understand how much of the total daily energy expenditure is from the energy expended at rest versus energy expended during physical activity. Prior studies used self-reported measures or activity monitors to measure physical activity, which are techniques that cannot provide the same accuracy. **–ANI**

MIRRORLIGHTS

AI identifies potential drug candidates to address human aging

Artificial intelligence (AI)– guided screening has identified three anti-aging drug candidates targeting 'zombie' cells, a significant milestone for both longevity research, researchers revealed.

The team from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, described the AI-guided screening of more than 800,000 compounds to reveal three drug candidates with comparable efficacy and superior medicinal chemistry properties than those currently under investigation.

"The data demonstrate that we can explore chemical space in silico and emerge with multiple candidate anti-aging compounds that are more likely to succeed in the clinic, compared to even the most promising examples of their kind being studied today," said Felix Wong, first author of the paper.

Researchers combined synthetic biology and machine learning to target aging, demonstrating the power of AI to discover novel "senolytic" compounds, a class of small molecules under intense study for their ability to suppress age-related processes such as fibrosis, inflammation, and cancer.

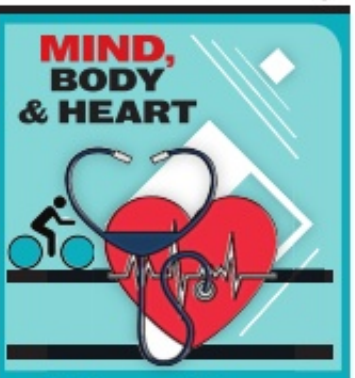
Senolytics are compounds that selectively induce apoptosis, or programmed cell death, in senescent cells that are no longer dividing.

A hallmark of aging, senescent cells have been implicated in a broad spectrum of age-related diseases and conditions including cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and Alzheimer's disease.

"One of the most promising routes to treat age-related diseases is to identify therapeutic interventions that selectively remove these cells from the body similarly to how antibiotics kill

bacteria without harming host cells. The compounds we discovered display high selectivity, as well as the favourable medicinal chemistry properties needed to yield a successful drug," explained Satotaka Omori, head of aging biology at Integrated Biosciences.

—ANI



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I'm a woman in my early 50s and I'm really struggling with where my life's going. I've never felt so lost in terms of who I am and what I want out of life.
I have two teenage kids who are often rude to me. I work part-time but, honestly, my career has been going downhill for years since having the kids. My marriage is OK, but my husband works a lot and when he's not working he's tired and doesn't want to do much, so I feel quite lonely.
I suppose I don't know where to start in terms of doing something new and just making life fun again. I've lost a lot of confidence since focusing on parenting and would feel really daunted by a career change. Also, since Covid, money is tight.
I feel stuck and have little enthusiasm for most things. My friends are all around the same age, but none of them seem to be struggling the way I am. Please help.

COLEEN SAYS

First of all, your friends might well be feeling similar, but not talking about it either. If you mention how you feel it might open a supportive discussion.
Entering your 50s and also coping with menopause is a really challenging time and you do start questioning everything.
When your kids get older and become more independent, you start thinking about what you're left with.
It's a tough age because mentally you still feel young, but you're often treated like you're not.
Talk to your husband, too – tell him you're feeling a bit lost and don't know which direction to take your life in. He can't help unless he knows.
It would also help to carve out proper time to be a couple.
You don't have to give up your job, but it doesn't stop you looking for other opportunities.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

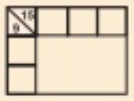
Chai-Time

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

.2, 1.4, ?, ?, 480.2, 3361.4
What is the third and fourth term?

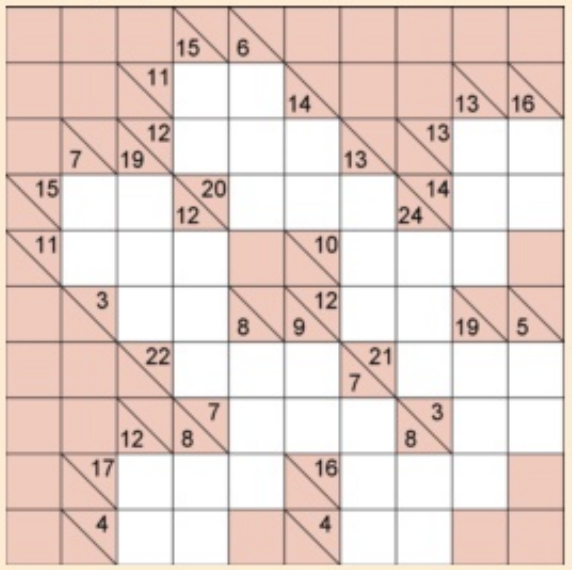
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

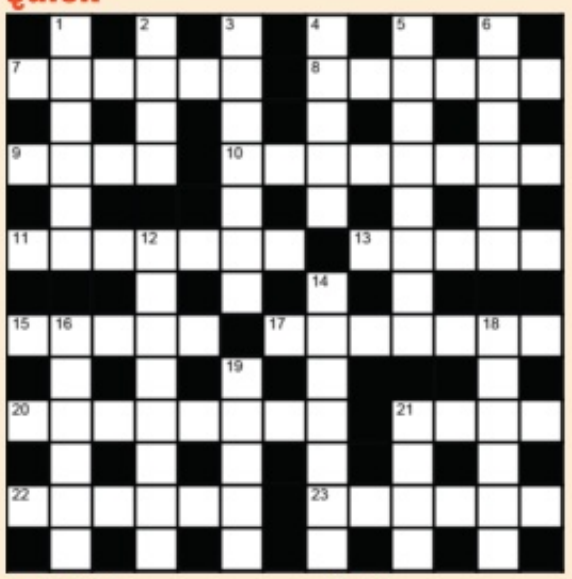


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Zakir Hussain and John McLaughlin's fusion group (6)
8 Former German emperor (6)
9 Make a sweater (4)
10 Reading carefully (8)
11 Spring back (7)
13 Pasta variety (5)
15 Masculine (5)
17 Point of view (7)
20 Unit of power, kW in short? (8)
21 Multiplex at Garuda Mall (4)
22 Delays or postpones (6)
23 Cute or attractive (6)

DOWN

1 By _____ : fortuitously? (6)
2 Satirical piece (4)
3 Having some tea, perhaps (7)
4 Avoid out of fear (5)
5 German physicist, Albert ___ (8)
6 Flag carried by a lancer (6)
12 Observer; witness (8)
14 Tomb inscription (7)
16 Comes up (6)
18 Second largest city and port in Portugal (6)
19 Authorization (3-2)
21 Cools or freezes? (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS U

ADBTWD QTZ JCY BTRRTU QTZW TUY IWZVVDW, QTZ MCLD XT MDCW XMD IWZVVDW.

Linemaro

Love is old, love is new, love is all, love is you

Mindchow

Look within. Within is the fountain of good, and it will ever bubble up if thou wilt ever dig

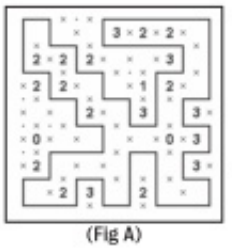
Joke of the day

Teacher: What kind of animal is a slug?
Student: It's a snail with a housing problem

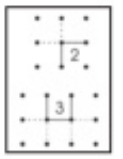
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

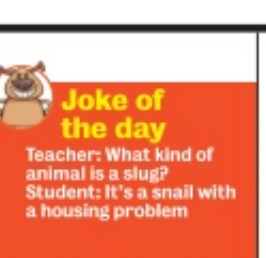
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

Strikeout

This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set....



ACROSS

1 A past; 6 Ulnar;
7 Rue at; 8 I'm FAA;
9 Lubes

DOWN

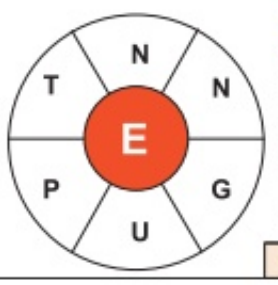
1 LM pub; 2 Laura;
3 Fauns; 4 Eat it;
5 As are

Mensapuzzle

Complete the bottom line of numbers.

7	4	9	2
11	16	9	13
22	20	24	25
?	?	?	?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; **02** Good; **03** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

5			3		9			6
	7	6				9	3	
			7		1			
	6			2			9	
		4				5		
	5			3			6	
			2		6			
	3	9				1	4	
7			9		3			8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 22
2 2 2 9

Medium = 14
1 2 4 9

Hard = 7
2 4 7 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

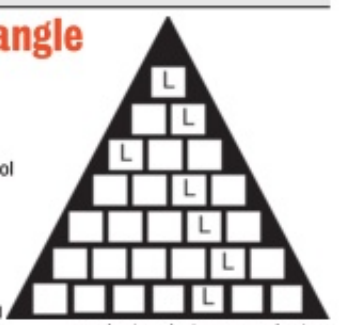
Differences: 1. Napkin holder is reversed. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Hair ribbon is moved. 4. Man's arm is moved. 5. Jacket collar is different. 6. Sign in window is smaller.

Riddler

A ban from the pitch, a place to see celebrities, a butterfly and two names for a humanitarian organisation. Which fish doesn't quite belong in the above group?

Alpha triangle

1 XXV + XXV
2 Spanish article
3 Maui garland
4 Digestive juice
5 Sacred book
6 A wooden hand tool
7 Ate like a rabbit



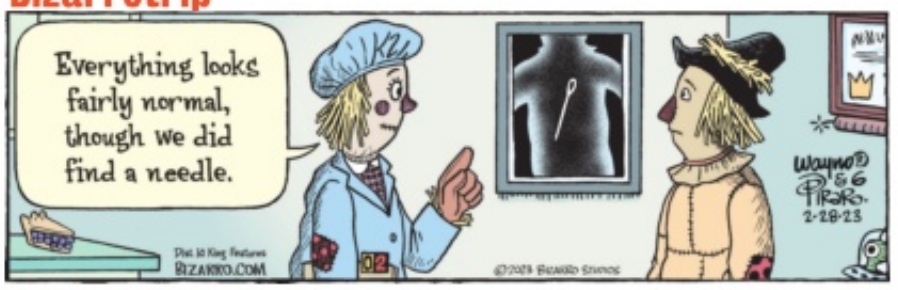
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

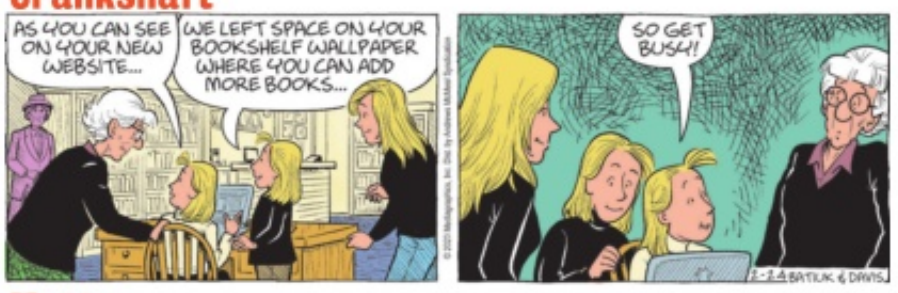


Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

—AND THE OPPOSITION HAS GAINED CONTROL!
BOO!
OUR TEAM IS WORSE THAN I REMEMBERED.
I'M TAKING MATTERS INTO MY OWN HANDS.
BRING BACK DEERIE!
BRING BACK DEERIE!

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be blessed by your destiny. Your postponed projects may start now with the help of elder's blessings, and messy situations may be under control, which can speed up your project. Disputes between family members are likely to be resolved, increasing domestic harmony. Your creativity may improve into artifacts, and you may be attracted to glamour.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and love may be in the air in your personal life. Singles may find a suitable match, and you may do well professionally. Your friends and subordinate staff may likely support you.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may not be able to present yourself practically, giving you a lack of confidence. Follow your intuition while making decisions in terms of investment. People around you may not be cooperative in terms of routine work. Be careful of eating unhealthy food to avoid stomach issues.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today is a good day, and you are enthusiastic. With good focus, you may perform well in business and work. Your boss may be supportive, and you may get new responsibilities with a promotion. It is advised to avoid arrogance in your love life, and you may visit a religious place.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may have confidence, reflecting in your way of working. You are in a winning position against opponents and enemies, and you have good focus towards your goals. In domestic life, try to avoid unnecessary arguments that may affect your domestic harmony.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be busy with your family and friends. You may plan to renovate your house or bring some creative stuff to maintain your social status, increasing your prestige. You may expect an increase in your fixed assets.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and your destiny is with you. Your postponed projects may start now with the help of elder's blessings, boosting your work speed. Domestic harmony may make you happy after resolving disputes between family members. Your creativity may improve into artifacts, movies, and glamour may attract you.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may be happy due to the blessing from an auspicious planetary combination, creating positive energy that may increase your prestige among people around you. Spend time studying intellectual stuff, and plan for higher studies.

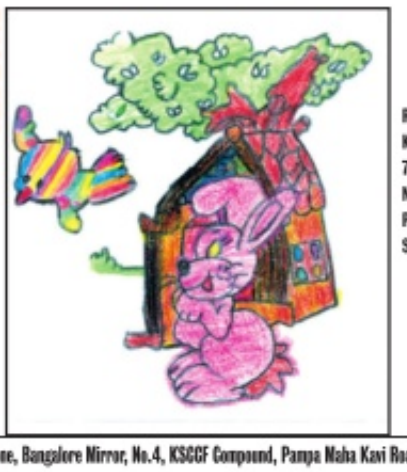
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today is a positive day in terms of gains, and you may get results with less effort. Your losses may convert into profits with the help of your wisdom. Plan for higher studies to groom your career, donate some amount to charity, help a needy person, and invest in intellectual assets. Students may do well.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, your moon is not in a good position, and you may feel dull with health issues. You may face losses in this period, so it is advised not to invest in risky assets. Your gains may convert into losses, and you should avoid investing in worthless objects. Avoid being involved in controversies, which may negatively affect you.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel negative vibrations around you, making you unhappy. Avoid making investments in worthless assets, and you may notice that friends and people around you may not be supportive today. Avoid expecting too much help from anyone and take independent decisions.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel dull and have some health-related issues. Chronic diseases may reappear. Avoid rash driving and conflicts with business partners. Avoid taking important decisions in terms of business. Postpone investments in business or work. With blessings from elders, by late evening, things may be under control.

KIDZONE



Rishik Kelkar, 7 Years National Public School

Nandini M, 13 years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
0.2 (1st term)
0.2×7 = 1.4 (2nd term)
1.4×7 = 9.8 (3rd term)
9.8×7 = 68.6 (4th term)
68.8×7 = 480.2 (5th term)
480.2×7 = 3361.4 (6th term)

BULL'S EYE
gent, PUNGENT, lure

FAST FIVE

P	A	S	T	A
L	U	N	A	R
U	R	A	T	E
M	A	F	I	A
B	L	U	E	S

RIDDLER
The fish in question was a red herring, other references were red card, red carpet, red admiral, Red Cross and Red Crescent

STRIKE OUT

F	A	B	L	E	D	D	A	G	G	E	R	A		
I		L		S	A	B	L	E		O		G		
N	O	E		L		D	R	Y		T	W	E	E	
I		L			S	A	B	L	E		O		G	
X	Y	L	E	N	E		L	E	A	D	E	N		
I		A		V	E	X	E	D		L		S		
S	A	S	H	E	S		D	A	W	D	L	E		

QUICK

	C		S		S		E		P					
S	H	A	K	T	I		K	A	I	S	E	R		
		A		I		P				N				
K	N	I	T		P	E	R	U	S	I	N	G		
		C		I		T		T		O				
R	E	B	O	U	N	D		P	E	N	E	D		
		N		G		E		I						
M	A	N	U	L		O	P	I	N	I	O	N		
		L		Y		O		S		R		O		
D	E	F	E	R	S		P	R	E	T	T	Y		
		S		K		Y		A		G		R		
K	I	L	O	W	A	T	T		I	N	O	X		
		S		R		O		S		I		P		

MENSA PUZZLE
49, 46, 47, 44. Look at pairs of lines: 7 + 9 = 16, 4 + 9 = 13, 9 + 2 = 11, 7 + 2 = 9. Therefore, 22 + 24 = 46, 20 + 24 = 44, 24 + 25 = 49, 22 + 25 = 47

QUOTE UNCODE
Before you can follow your own drummer, you have to hear the drummer.

SUDOKU

5	4	1	3	8	9	7	2	6
8	7	6	4	5	2	9	3	1
2	9	3	7	6	1	4	8	5
1	6	7	5	2	4	8	9	3
3	2	4	6	9	8	5	1	7
9	5	8	1	3	7	2	6	4
4	8	5	2	1	6	3	7	9
6	3	9	8	7	5	1	4	2
7	1	2	9	4	3	6	5	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
L, EL, Lell, Bille, Bible, Dibble, Nibbled.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 × 9 + 2 + 2 = 22
Medium
2 × 9 − 4 × 1 = 14
Hard
3 × 4 + 2 − 7 = 7

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 15, Issue No 225 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018 and printed by him at Fourth Estate Ltd, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Hosur Road, Bengaluru 560099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru 560 018. Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # Meditative star
Superstar Aamir Khan is in Nepal on a personal visit during which he will attend a ten-day vipassana meditation programme

Romance in 'scary' time

Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas was forced to cope with a "daunting atmosphere" on 'Love Again'.

The 40-year-old actress stars in the new romantic comedy film alongside Sam Heughan and Celine Dion but admits it was tricky to generate the emotions required as the picture was filmed in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

"It was nuts at that time. It was tough, but it was a scary time in the world. As actors, we're the ones that have to take off our masks on set. I was terrified, honestly, in the beginning. It was a very scary, daunting atmosphere, and we were doing a romantic comedy - we had to bring lightness and fun to set in this daunting atmosphere," she recalled to Entertainment Weekly, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"We really leaned on each other to create a fun environment on set with each other. We would laugh and crack jokes and tried to find the joy so that we could inspire and infuse ourselves as well. But it wasn't easy."

Priyanka stars in the film as Mira Ray, who - struggling to cope with the death of her fiance - sends romantic messages to his old phone number, which has been reassigned to journalist Rob Burns (Heughan). Rob is drawn to Mira's beautiful texts and seeks Celine Dion's assistance to find her in real life when he is tasked with writing a feature about the 'My Heart Will Go On' singer.

Sam admits that the pandemic was one of the main reasons he accepted the chance to play the male lead in the film.

The 'Outlander' star said, "I think we were all ready for it. After the lockdowns and being in isolation, everyone was ready to feel joy again. That's why this was such a well-timed movie to make. I think we all, certainly after the pandemic and everything else that's going on in the world, needed this kind of movie and this kind of message."

–IANS

Too good to be true

Bollywood actors who lost out on roles because they were deemed 'too good-looking'

Gone are the days when the most important thing you needed to become an actor was good looks. Today, actors with unconventional looks are ruling the screens with their talent and performance alone. However, all this has somehow made things quite difficult for the others who are losing on projects because they look 'too good' for the roles. From Gauahar Khan, Dino Morea to Dia Mirza, here's taking a look at actors who lost out on roles because they were too good-looking. **ETimes**

Dia Mirza

Dia Mirza is one of the finest actors we have in the industry. In an interview in 2020, Dia revealed that she lost several roles because of her good looks. According to her, the way she looks has been a disadvantage for her. She also admitted to losing jobs and not being cast in a part because she was too good looking. Dia called it a strange disadvantage.

Dino Morea

Dino Morea has always been known for his charm and good looks. However, these blessings turned into a bane for the actor when he realised that filmmakers rejected him because they thought he was too good looking for the roles in their films. The actor admitted that it was quite bizarre. According to him, people in the industry never saw him beyond his looks. He also added that being good looking sometimes works against you in Bollywood.

Freddy Daruwala

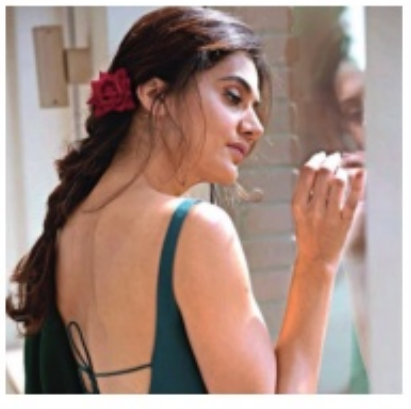
Freddy Daruwala also faced a similar thing recently when he was rejected for a role by a director for being too good looking. The filmmaker even told the actor that it is the age of unconventional looks and that actors who are as good looking as him don't fit into roles they have to offer.

Gauahar Khan

Gauahar Khan has very successfully created her mark in the industry with her roles and performances. However, there was a time when the actress was rejected for a role because she was too good looking. In an interview in 2022, Gauahar revealed that she had auditioned for Danny Boyle's multiple Oscar-winning film, 'Slumdog Millionaire'. She added that after clearing five rounds of auditions, she was rejected because she was too good looking.

Kriti Sanon

It wasn't a cake walk for Kriti Sanon during her initial days in the film industry. In a throwback interview, Kriti had revealed how she used to cry after being rejected on the basis of her looks. She also recalled being told by someone once that something is not right with her as she is too good looking. The actress was also told that there has to be some sort of imperfection in her to look real on screen.



Vacay gear

Bollywood actress Taapsee Pannu was seen walking around dressed in a nine yard wonder in New York while holidaying with her sister Shagun and beau and badminton champion Mathias Boe.

Taapsee took to Instagram stories, where she shared a slew of pictures. In the images, the actress is seen wearing a white corset paired with a dark purple saree and sneakers.

She shared a picture holding a glass of water and wrote: "Clearly anti-bar person."

The second photograph had Taapsee posing sitting outside a cafe with another beverage: "Now more like it."

On the acting front, Taapsee will be seen sharing screen space with Shah Rukh Khan in the upcoming film 'Dunki', directed by Rajkumar Hirani. Vicky Kaushal also has a pivotal role in the film.

This is for the first time both Rajkumar Hirani and Shah Rukh Khan are coming together. Naturally, the film has been making a buzz since its announcement. In the film, SRK will be presented in a new avatar as he steps into Hirani's world with this social comedy.

–IANS